

Wheat, Jo

From: Jory Fleming <joryfleming@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Wheat, Jo
Cc: Ellison, Afton
Subject: [External] Issue with My Public Testimony for Docket No. 2020-125-E
Attachments: Letter to the SC Public Service Commission - Jory Fleming.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Jo Wheat,

I was given your email address by the SC ORS. I had issues during my testimony, with lawyers on the call saying something about me not following the correct procedure for giving testimony. I was very confused about this and tried for a long time to ask for help without a response.

I called Andrew Bateman with ORS and he said I could write a letter describing my experiences and asking for your help in entering the testimony and the data and sources I used in preparing my testimony. I have attached this letter to this email. I would be very grateful if you could enter this letter onto the docket and help me get the proper instructions to submit everything.

Best,
Jory

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Dear Members of the Public Service Commission,

I am writing this letter after a conversation with Andrew Bateman at SC ORS. I called Mr. Bateman today because I thought there may an issue with my testimony in Docket No 2020-125-E during the public hearing on the night of November 9th, 2020. Mr. Bateman said on the call that I could write this letter to describe my experiences to the commission.

I joined the conference via phone only. The operator took my name and number, and I was provided no further instructions for how to interact with the conferencing system. When it was my turn to provide testimony, I did so, but it was difficult to hear some of the other voices on the call speaking to me. As I was in the middle of providing sources for the numbers in my testimony, I was muted by someone and was unable to speak. Multiple lawyers then came on the call and started speaking about my testimony and said something about not following a procedure. I was unable to respond or ask a question about how to fix any issues the lawyers were referencing. I repeatedly asked for help on the call and tried to hail an operator and was unsuccessful until the break when I hung up and re-dialed in to speak with the operator again. I asked the operator to relay a message saying I was unable to respond to the lawyers and asked to speak again to receive help, but I was told by the operator that someone in the room denied my request. The operator did not know the name of the person who denied my request for help.

This was my first time giving testimony of this kind, and I did not have a good experience. It was frustrating to hear people talking about my testimony and trying to speak, but not have the chance to be heard. I would also like to state that I was given no instructions from the public service commission or any other party about any rules or procedures I needed to follow. I only received a letter which states “All testimony will be given under oath and entered into the record of the case...” and provides no further instructions other than how to pre-register for the hearing.

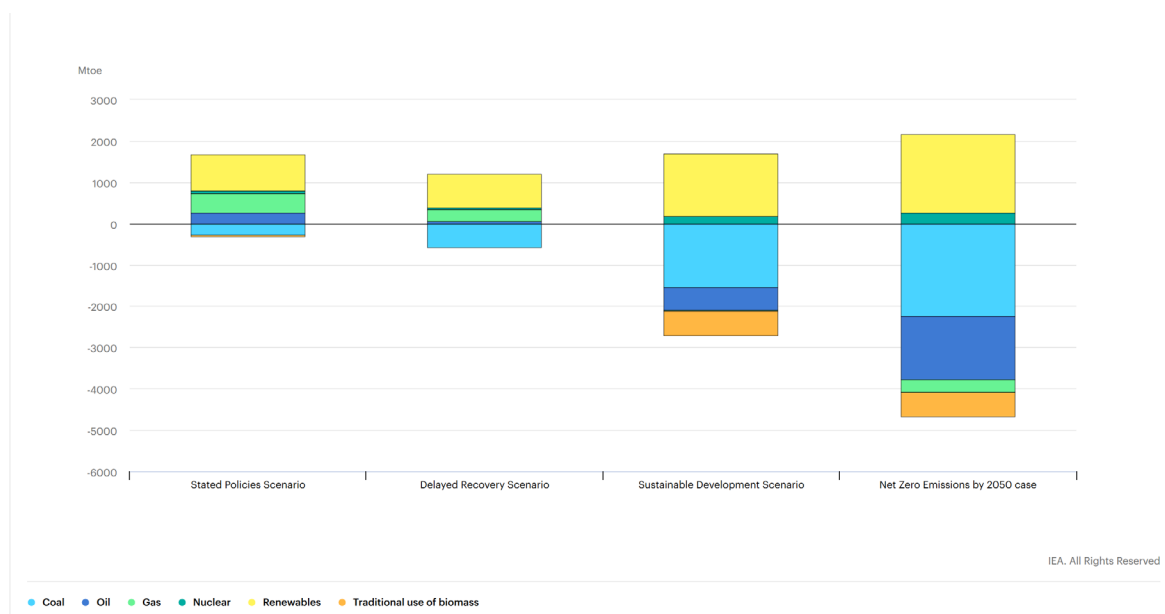
Mr. Bateman also said I could ask for the commission’s help via this letter to enter data and sources that I referenced in my testimony into the record of the case. I am a scientist, and always seek to cite the data I use. I ask the commission to provide instructions for entering these data and sources into the record. I will now detail the data and sources I used.

Regarding my claim that Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. earned revenues per rate payer that were 10% higher than the average for other providers in South Carolina and 30% higher than the national average, I referenced data from the federal government, specifically the Energy Information Administration, a part of the United States Department of Energy. The webpage I used to access the data is: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data.php>. The dataset I used is “Monthly Form EIA-861M detailed data (1990-present) – Revenue, sales, customer counts, and retail price by state and sector”, specifically I downloaded the Excel Spreadsheet titled “Annual Retail Sales of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by State and Utility Residential Sector”. The direct link to this spreadsheet is: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/xls/table6.xlsx. I request that this spreadsheet

from the EIA be entered into the public record. I used this spreadsheet to calculate the number used in my testimony as follows:

- Derive Revenues per Customer for all utilities in the dataset by dividing the column “Revenues (Thousands Dollars)” by the column “Customers (Count)”
- Derive the Average Revenues per Customer for all utilities in South Carolina by referencing the column “State” and code “SC”.
- Derive the Average Revenues per Customer for all utilities nationwide by referencing all utilities in the dataset
- Derive the Revenues per Customer for Dominion Energy by referencing the column “Entity” and code “Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.”
- I used these numbers to compute the percent differences mentioned

Regarding my claim that Dominion’s expansion of natural gas while claiming to be moving towards net zero is a violation of the International Energy Agency’s Net Zero by 2050 model, I referenced data from the International Energy Agency, specifically the World Energy Outlook 2020 Report. The International Energy Agency is an inter-governmental body which the United States is party to. The webpage I used to access the report is: <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2020>. I request this report be entered into the public record. The IEA’s Net Zero by 2050 case indicates natural gas use as a fuel source must decline by 2030, relative to 2019. The webpage I used to access this data is: “IEA, Change in global primary energy demand by fuel and scenario, 2030 relative to 2019, IEA, Paris” <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/change-in-global-primary-energy-demand-by-fuel-and-scenario-2030-relative-to-2019>. I request this figure and the data behind it be entered into the public record. I referenced Dominion Energy’s press release titled “Dominion Energy South Carolina celebrates milestone of serving 400,000 natural gas customers” for their intent to expand natural gas in South Carolina and continue using natural gas after 2030, and their claim that this complies with achieving net zero by 2050. The webpage I used to access this press release is: <https://news.dominionenergy.com/celebrates-milestone-400000-natural-gas-customers>. I request this press release be entered into the public record. The claim that this is greenwashing is my personal opinion of this contradiction between these sources.



Appears in
[World Energy Outlook 2020](#)

Regarding my claim that South Carolina is ranked 43rd in median household income, I referenced data from the federal government, specifically the United States Census Bureau. I referenced “Table S1901” from the American Community Survey. I used 2018 1-year estimates, including Washington D.C. as a state. The webpage I used to access this data is <https://data.census.gov>. The Census Bureau has 2019 1-year estimates for Table S1901, where South Carolina is ranked 42nd in median household income (if Washington D.C. is included as a state). I request the data in “Census Bureau American Community Survey Table S1901 2019 1-Year Estimates, Median Household Income by State” be entered into the public record.

Regarding my claims about Dominion Energy’s stock prices, I referenced data from the New York Stock Exchange. The webpage I used to access this data is: <https://www.nyse.com/quote/XNYS:D>. I request that stock price data from December 1st, 2018 to November 9th, 2020 be entered into the public record.

Regarding my claims about Dominion Energy’s quarterly earnings, I referenced press releases from Dominion Energy. Specifically, I referenced “Dominion Energy Announces Third-Quarter Earnings” from <https://news.dominionenergy.com/2020-11-05-Dominion-Energy-Announces-Third-Quarter-Earnings> and “Dominion Energy Declares Quarterly Dividend of 63 Cents” from <https://news.dominionenergy.com/2020-11-04-Dominion-Energy-Declares-Quarterly-Dividend-of-63-Cents>. My interpretation of investors was informed by a Yahoo Finance article titled “Dominion Energy: 3Q Earnings Snapshot” from <https://news.yahoo.com/dominion-energy-3q-earnings-snapshot-124209992.html>. I request both press releases and the article be entered into the public record.

Regarding my claim that I remembered Dominion's claims to lower rates when they bought out SCANA, I was informed by an article in The State titled "Dominion completes buyout of SCANA after 17-month nuclear fiasco" from <https://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article223761640.html>. I request the article be entered into the public record.

These are the data and sources I would have indicated last night to the commission if I had been allowed to speak or respond. I want to thank the SC ORS for assisting me by providing guidance on how to submit this letter to the commission, and I want to thank the commission for carefully considering my testimony and the data and sources underlying it. I carefully prepared my testimony for the commission, and I am attaching my notes I had prepared to this letter as well.

I may be reached at the following contact information if anything I wrote in this letter is unclear (please redact this personal information before posting online).

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Columbia SC 29 [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Jory Fleming

November 10th, 2020

on Downing St

Good evening. My name is Jory Fleming, and I am speaking for those of us here at ~~Street~~ ^{to}. I request the commission deny Dominion Energy's request to increase the residential service rate, and I want to present a few points for you to consider.

First, Dominion Energy is one of the largest electric providers in the United States, and their market position only increased after they completed their buyout of SCANA in January 2019. Their investors were certainly happy, and their stock price rose about 10%. I also remember quite well their hollow claims to ~~permanently~~ ^{at the time} lower rates when they swooped in last year. When they recently announced their 3rd Quarter earnings this month, their stock price rose and investors received a dividend payout, which they ^{also} seemed quite happy about. I'm not an investor with Dominion, clearly, so this household and many others are being asked to pay up instead. I unfortunately don't have the money to hire a fleet of economists to counter all of Dominion's claims, so I ask that you pay attention to me and the other households speaking ~~today~~ ^{this week} and give equal respect to our points.

Second, Dominion Energy is not responsive to the needs of South Carolina because they don't have to be. It's a private ~~company~~ ^{not a business} headquartered out of state, responsible to their investors. Households around here face some of the higher residential electricity costs in the nation while Dominion faces low costs for production. According to U.S. Energy Information Agency data for the 2019 residential electricity market, Dominion Energy's South Carolina operation earned revenues per rate payer that were 10% higher than the average of other providers in South Carolina and nearly 30% higher than the national average. Frankly, I find it hard to square that Dominion is able to convince this commission so easily about the need to raise residential rates that are already well above average in a state ranked 43rd in median household income.

I am angry that South Carolina forces Dominion Energy's monopoly on me instead of allowing competition that allows me as a consumer to make choices that reflect my concerns or a utility that is based here and is accountable to me instead of the investors and banks which hold most of Dominion's shares. For example, I'm outraged when I see Dominion's greenwashing as they expand ~~carbon emissions from~~ ^{concerns} natural gas while claiming to be moving towards net zero, in direct violation of ~~top energy models~~. But Dominion knows they don't have to recognize my feelings because I'm not an investor, I'm a consumer whose choice has been taken away. So I'm asking you to recognize them, and since I can do nothing myself, to do something about it.

→ the International Energy Agency's Net Zero by 2050 model.

Third, ~~Finally~~, while I am heartened on today's promising vaccine news, I believe that even by March 2021 we will still be seeing effects of this coronavirus pandemic. We ~~at~~ ^{which} ~~St.~~ are working from home. Other households may have children at home doing school remotely. Still other households may have unemployed people applying for jobs. All of this results in an increased use of electricity and an increased cost when many ^{households} can least afford it. My employer certainly isn't paying for my electricity use during the day. So if you choose to believe Dominion's pleas of increased costs, then you should consider ours first.

Finally, ~~sources~~

Thank you for the time and opportunity to speak with you this evening.